

PLS NOTE PARA. 4.

17 August 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Vance on the NRO**

1. Mr. Vance advised me by telephone that he had signed the NRO agreement which is on its way back here.
2. I told Mr. Vance that we are somewhat concerned about the intervening period prior to Dr. McMillan's departure and Dr. Flax' takeover and asked whether it would be possible to move Flax' takeover up to the 1st of September (obviously Dr. McMillan could stay on as Under Secretary of the Air Force). Mr. Vance said that this would be difficult. Dr. Flax is away on leave and will not be back until sometime next week. In any event, Vance is obviously reluctant to appear to be hastening McMillan's departure. He had apparently advised McMillan today, for the first time, about the execution of the new agreement. I pointed out the necessity for an early decision on the funding and contracts covering further development and testing of the general search systems. This has been one of the most contentious and difficult problems which has to be sorted out dispassionately. I said that I thought it would be very difficult for Brock McMillan to handle the problem and difficult for anybody in CIA to deal with McMillan on it. I said that I thought it was very important to get off to a good start on this issue which presents immediately the question of the interface between the space vehicle and the camera system. Arrangements will have to be made for the continuing development and appropriate testing of three different camera systems. Simultaneously some arrangement will have to be made for the development of spacecraft, recognizing that the spacecraft developed

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by the Air Force is not compatible with the PE camera design (and the CIA spacecraft is not compatible with the EK camera design). I told Mr. Vance that I doubted very much whether McMillan was in a position to sort this one out very rationally.

3. I also told Mr. Vance that Dr. Fubini had called me last night and warned me, somewhat obscurely, that it would be unwise to get Harold Brown too deeply involved in the NRO. I assume that what he meant was that direct dealings with Dr. Brown would tend to short circuit Dr. Flax and make life difficult for him. In any event there are good reasons for not wanting to involve either Dr. McMillan or Dr. Brown too deeply in the administration of the NRP. The only alternative is to involve Dr. Flax. I pointed out that we are all in agreement that a new team would be desirable and it seems to me we should put it to work at once. I mentioned, incidentally, Mr. Reber's selection as the DDNRO.

4. Mr. Vance said that he and Mr. McNamara are planning to have lunch with the Director and Mr. Helms tomorrow and suggested that the matter be talked over at that time.

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JOHN A. BROSS
D/DCI/NIPE

*Dictated but not read.

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